Development of Krishna river was not found economically viable. Backwaters of Mahanadi river were found to be feasible for development of navigable route for transportation of talchar coal through Brahmani/Mahanadi river system.

Central Road fund for development of National Highways

1063. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan for the development of National Highways and other roads;

(b) whether it is proposed to create a Central Road Fund for the purpose;

(c) if so, the funds required initially for the creation of the proposed Central Road Funds;

(d) whether Government have agreed to release the required funds for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Road Fund already exists.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

बिहार में नदी में जलयानों का चलाया जाना

1064. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार की बिहार से बरारीघाट, मनिहारी तथा सुल्तानगंज घाट पर जलयानों को चलाने की कोई योजना है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि प्रत्येक वर्ष हजारों लोग नाव तथा निजी जलयानों के डूबने से मर जाते हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार का सुरक्षित आवागमन सुविधा को देखते हुए जलयानों को चलाने की योजना को कार्यान्वित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो क्यों?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा॰ देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्यसभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Removal of congestion of Roads

1065. DR. D. VEKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a truch takes more than 48 hours to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi in view of traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to further widen the roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A length of 125 Km of National Highway No. 8 running from Delhi to Ahmedabad has already been widened to four-lane carriageway. In addition, it has been decided to widen the remaining stretches of this N.H. to four-lane as a part of the golden quadrangle to be executed by the National Highways Authority of India.

Assistance from ADB for Development of Highways in Orissa

1066. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank loan has been obtained by Government for the development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the total amont of ADB loan obtained by Government for this purpose so far; and

(c) the details of the National Highways which are being developed with the ADB loan in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.